

In the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A modular shade system comprising:
 - a support structure, supportable by a support surface, defining a-an elevated, generally horizontal first area having a length and a width, the first area having a periphery;
 - a planar array of modular panels, having upper and lower surfaces, mounted to and supported by the support structure at the first area to form the shade system, ~~said the~~ modular panels covering at least about 80% of the first area, the upper surfaces of the modular panels being exposed surfaces;
 - the shade system being a wall-less shade system having open side regions extending downwardly from the periphery of the first area;
 - the modular panels comprising PV panels acting as a source of electricity and supplemental panels; and
 - the supplemental panels being other than PV panels and optionally providing shading.
2. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1 wherein the support structure comprises:
 - a series of generally parallel purlins supporting the modular panels;
 - beams located beneath ~~said the~~ purlins and oriented transversely to said purlins, ~~said the~~ purlins secured to and supported by the beams; and
 - a generally vertical column secured to and supporting each of said beams.
3. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the supplemental panels comprise light-transmissive panels and wherein light-transmissive panels cover about 0 to 50% of the first area.
4. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the supplemental panels comprise light-transmissive panels and wherein light-transmissive panels cover about 5 to 30% of the first area.

5. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the supplemental panels comprise light-transmissive panels and wherein the light-transmissive panels are placed adjacent to one another along a path parallel to the length.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~shading~~ system according to claim 1 wherein the PV panels comprise light-transmissive PV panels.

7. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the supplemental panels comprise light-transmissive panels and wherein the PV panels and light-transmissive panels cover at least about 90% of the first area.

8. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1 further comprising protective panels mounted to the shading system ~~subassembly~~ opposite, spaced apart from and covering substantially the entire lower surfaces of the PV ~~modules~~ panels, the protective panels comprising at least one of a wire mesh and a sheet of material.

9. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 8 wherein the protective panels comprise at least one of sheet metal, perforated sheet metal, plastic, perforated plastic, cement board, perforated cement board, and phosphorescent material.

10. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 8 wherein at least some of the PV modules and the protective modular panels are constructed to permit some light to pass therethrough.

11. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 8 wherein the protective panels have a lower protective panel surface, at least substantially the entire lower protective panel surface being convex.

12. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 8 wherein the protective panels ~~are perforated~~ comprise ventilating perforations to provide ventilation for the PV panels.

13. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 8 wherein the PV ~~modules~~ panels cover at least about 90% of the first area.

14. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1 wherein the supplemental panels comprise phosphorescent panels to provide passive nighttime illumination beneath ~~support structure~~ the shade system

15. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the supplemental panels comprise planter panels for planting of plants.

16-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) A photovoltaic assembly comprising:
a mounting structure;
a PV module, having upper and lower surfaces, supported by the mounting structure; and
a protective panel mounted to at least one of the mounting structure and the PV module opposite, spaced apart from and covering substantially the entire the lower surface of the PV module, the protective panel comprising at least one of a wire mesh and a sheet of ~~material~~ material.

32. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 31 wherein the protective panel comprises at least one of sheet metal, perforated sheet metal, plastic, perforated plastic, cement board, perforated cement board, and phosphorescent material.

33. (Original) The system according to claim 31 wherein the PV module and the protective panel are constructed to permit some light to pass therethrough.

34. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 31 wherein the protective panel has a lower protective panel surface, at least substantially the entire lower protective panel surface being convex.

35. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 31 wherein the protective panel is ~~perforated~~ comprises ventilating perforations to provide ventilation for the PV module.

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